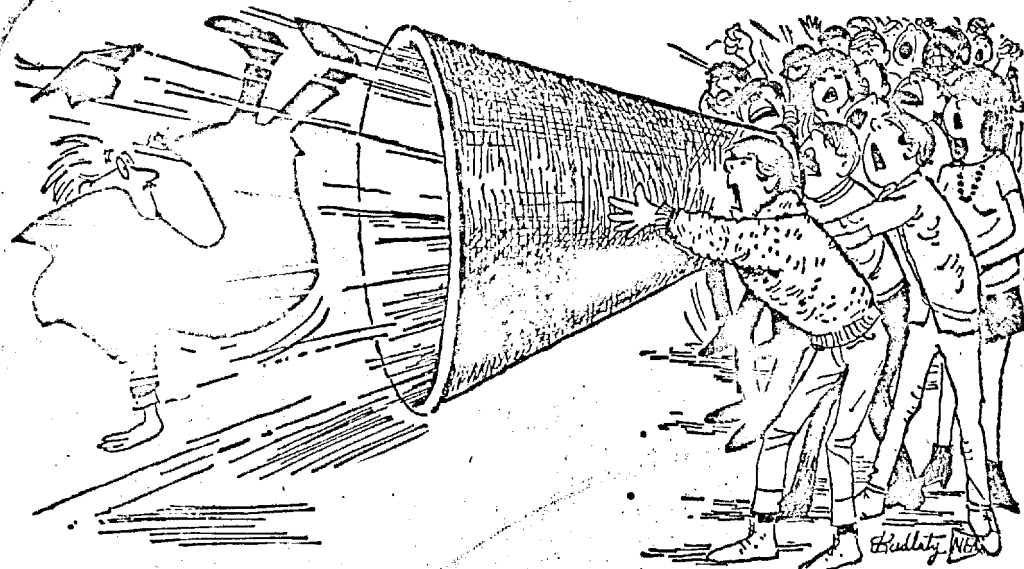


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National Student
Assn.



Student Power Slogan Confusing

NEW YORK (NEA)—It takes Detroit a year to overhaul any model car, 17 years for the locusts to return, and a year to write a novel. But the National Student Association does not work on predictable calendar events.

It took NSA 10 days to forget there was a CIA, several more days to brush off the saboteurs from the Students for a Democratic Society, and just about 45 days to flood the country with a new slogan: Student Power. It doesn't matter that the motto is an overhauled version of Black Power. It doesn't matter that nobody really knows what Student Power is supposed to mean.

What does matter is that the volume is tuned up loud and clear and that the nation, for once, seems to be listening.

The call for Student Power may have some far-reaching consequences. History books in another 50 years may explain it on the page where they now gab about "Go west, young man." The Hot Line will have a new extension number spliced into Student Power headquarters.

Where's that?

That's one of the problems of

Student Power. Several "places" have claimed it as their own: the NSA, SDS, Young Americans for Freedom, even the Young Republicans. In the guts of the power structure it doesn't matter where Student Power is lodged. What matters is that the draft and college administrators somehow retained their "Power Over Students."

Tom Fulton, president of the Board of Residence Halls at the University of Minnesota, defined Student Power for the benefit of the administration as "considerable student influence in an institutionalized manner in the decision making processes of the university."

Ed Schwartz, president of NSA, disagrees. "Student Power," says Schwartz, "means not simply the ability to influence decisions, but the ability to make decisions. . . . Student Power is threatening to those who wield power now, but this is understandable. A student should threaten his administrator outside of class, just as bright students threaten professors in class. Student Power ultimately challenges everyone in the university—the students who must decide; the faculty and administrators who must re-think their own view of com-

munity relations in order to persuade."

Comedian Dick Gregory has an idea about where Student Power had its origins. Says Gregory: "A nation that is morally corrupt has to worry about its youth. And America's youth is the most moral crop of young folks in history. You are looking for truth and truth always emerges victorious."

Eugene Groves, former president of NSA, put it this way: "Adult America has become paranoid about the youth challenge to her institutions. But America retains a semblance of tolerance, forced in part by the demands of the American Negro and reflecting a conflict in norms, particularly the dichotomy between the Christian ethic to love thy neighbor and the capitalistic edict to soak him for all he's worth. This tolerance permits youth of today to fight in order to implement the moral values their parents only prescribed."

Student ideas have survived and caught on mostly because students have found ways of being heard. Once they were being heard they started saying things that made at least some of the adult world some of the time stop and wonder: maybe they've got a point after all.

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